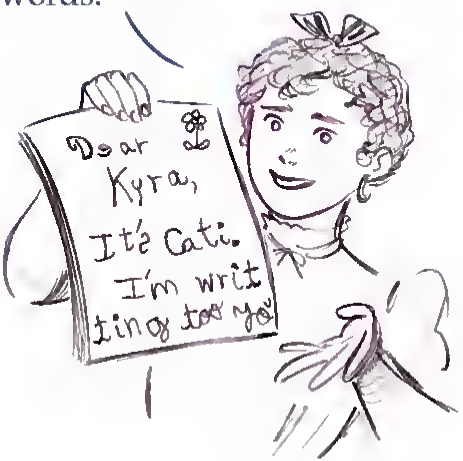
What do I think...?
Well, the letter is fine, but...

We have to work on the **size** of the words.

You've used eighteen paper sheets just for the first part.



Help me, Rebeca, I'm begging you!
I don't want to spend another two days on the rest of the letter!
Two days?!

Please, finish the letter for me!

Alright, but what's left? You've already told your mentor that you're engaged and want her to come to your wedding.

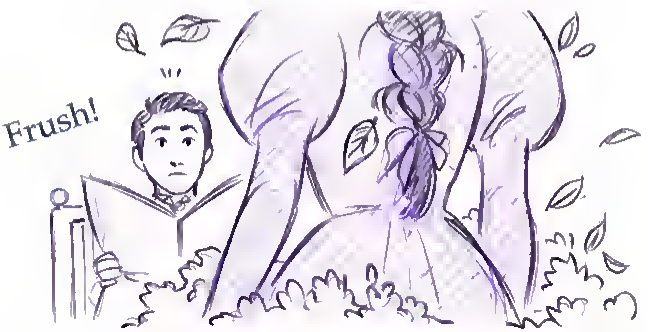
Or at least *I think* it says so… What else do you want to add?

I want to tell her how I met Andreas.
Can I dictate it to you, pleeeease?

Fine. I want to know the story too.

Thank you! You are the best!
Start talking, I'm ready.
Was it *romantic*?

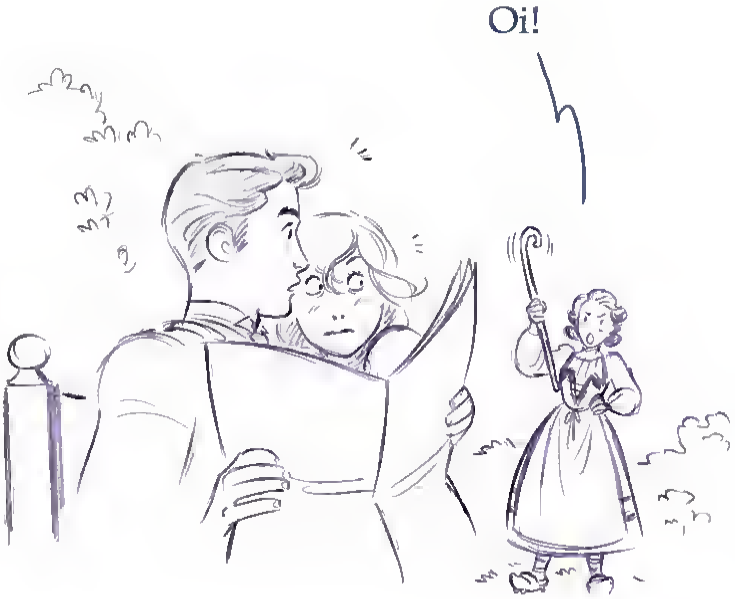
Yes.
Yes,
it was.


Frush!

Sir, I need
your help!

Excuse
me?

Don't let her find me, please!
Hey!


Oi!

Have you seen a girl running this way?
When I catch her she'll be taught a lesson!

Why are you looking for her, miss?
What has she –

We haven't
seen *anybody*!

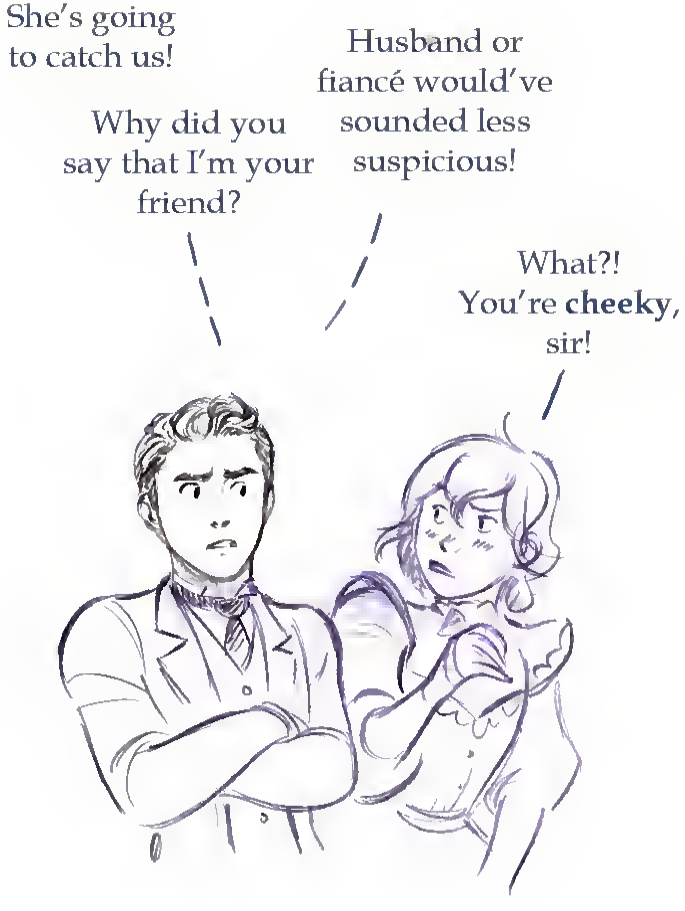
My… *friend* and I have been here all morning and we haven't seen a soul.
Right, **my dear friend**?

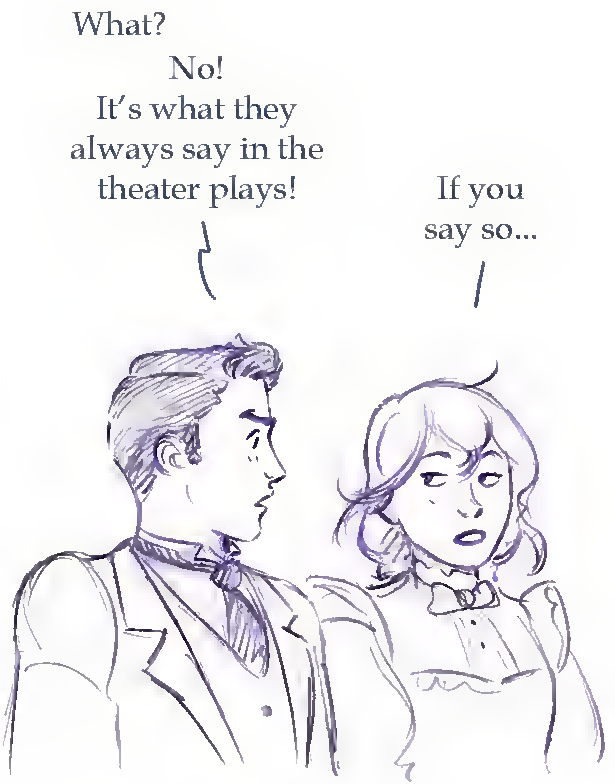
That's correct...
friend.

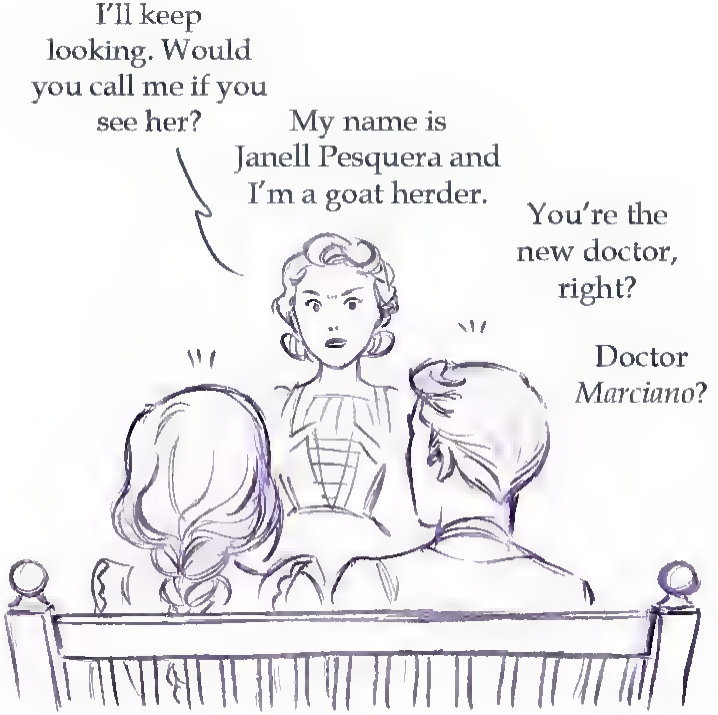
Janell!
Did you find
her?!

Not yet!

But don't worry, I won't lose her!


She's going to catch us!
Husband or fiancé would've sounded less suspicious!
Why did you say that I'm your friend?
What?! You're **cheeky**, sir!


What?
No!
It's what they always say in the theater plays!
If you say so...


I'll keep looking. Would you call me if you see her?
My name is Janell Pesquera and I'm a goat herder.
You're the new doctor, right?
Doctor *Marciano*?

Marino.
Doctor Andreas Marino, at your service.

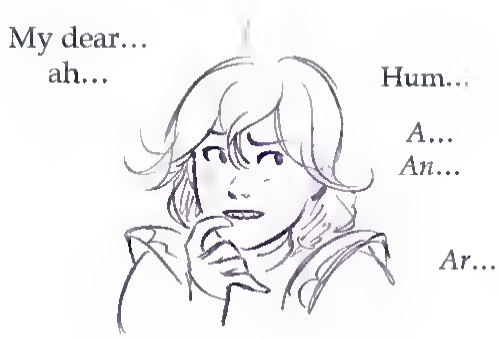
Hum, I wish your grandfather didn't retire.
I don't like young doctors— they think they know everything.

Hey,
my fiancé is very
competent!

I thought you said he was your friend.

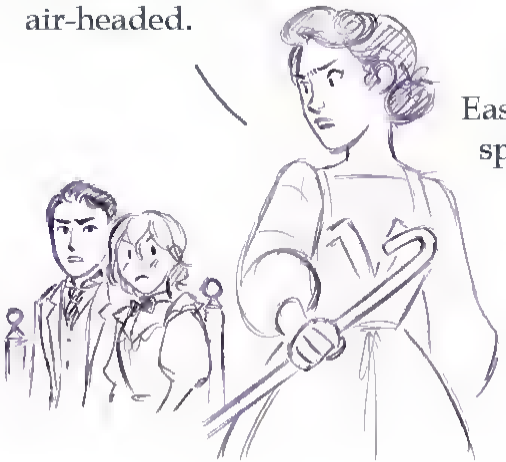
Oh, yes...
It's because... we got engaged only recently, and I'm still getting used to that.
Oh, it's the most romantic story you could imagine! He's even ordered a ring with a red heart in it, you know?

We have lived through so much together... But neither of us wanted to admit our feelings!
One day he kissed me and said that he loved me fiercely. Fiercely! And I realized that I felt the same.
My dear...


My dear…
ah…
Hum…
A…
An…
Ar…

Andreas.
Exactly!
Haha!
You always can finish my sentences, dear.

Let me know if you see that girl, please. She wears a ridiculous hat and seems a little air-headed.



Easy to spot.

Thank you very much, sir, you saved my life.
Here, a piranha's tooth— it will protect you from nightmares about piranhas.

Thank you,
but I don't believe
in lucky charms.

Besides, I've never
had a dream about a
piranha in my life.

That's too bad,
I haven't anything to
prevent nightmares
about baldness.

How do you know that...?
Well, I figured that's why you're wearing a wig.
I'm **not** wearing a wig!

All that hair is yours?! Let me touch it...
Hey!
Wow, it's really soft, and it smells great!
And no trace of lice!

D-do you do this to all your *fake fiancés*?

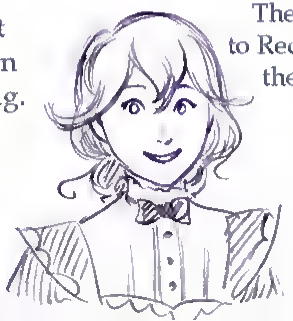
Haha, sorry! My mentor advised me not to do these sorts of things.

Well, nice to meet you, Doctor Marino.
My name is Cati Abbott, by the way.
I liked being your fiancée for five minutes, and I really appreciate that you lied for me.

Lying is improper of a gentleman, but that woman looked dangerous.

You're not from here, are you, Miss Abbott?

No, I arrived at the North station this very morning.

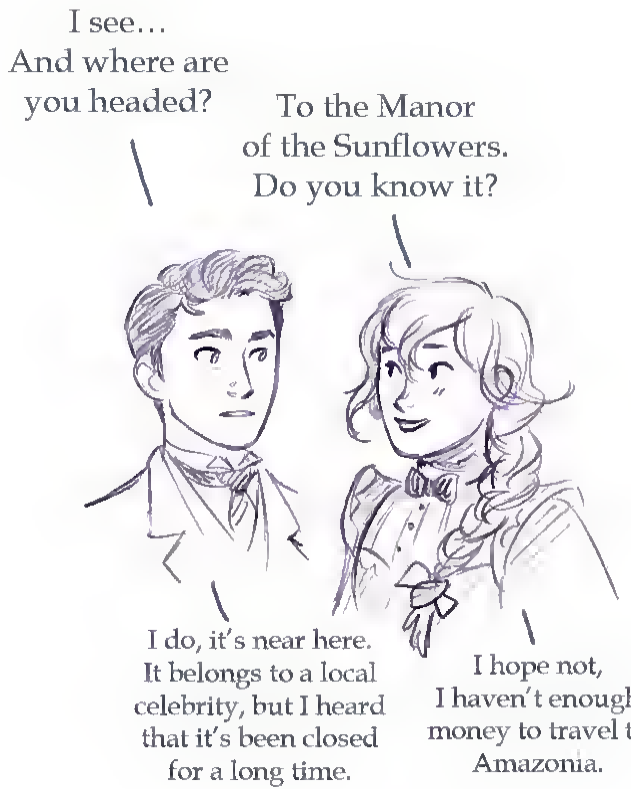


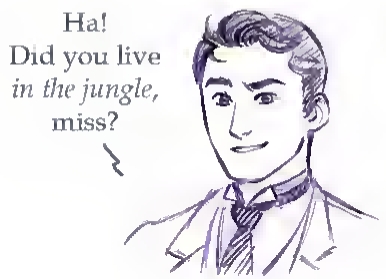
Then I took a coach to Redstone and I made the rest of the trip on foot.

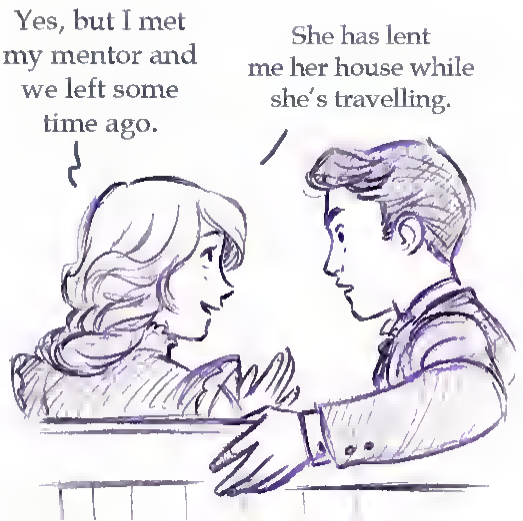
You came from Redstone on foot? That's a three-hour walk!

That's nothing. Sometimes you have to walk for a whole day to catch a sneaky prey, you know.

Besides… the coachman found out that I hadn't enough money, hehe!


I see…
And where are you headed?
To the Manor of the Sunflowers. Do you know it?
I do, it's near here. It belongs to a local celebrity, but I heard that it's been closed for a long time.
I hope not, I haven't enough money to travel to Amazonia.

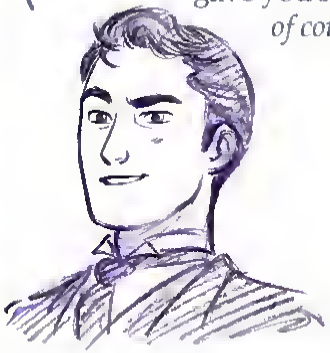

Ha!
Did you live
in the jungle,
miss?


Yes, but I met
my mentor and
we left some
time ago.
She has lent
me her house while
she's travelling.

Wait, are you insinuating that you're the protegée of Mrs. Aquila-Salazar, the famous anthropologist?!

All right,
let me guess: your parents
were *aristocrats,* but your ship
sank in the sea and you were raised
by *a monkey family* that taught
you to use *vines* as a means
of transportation.

One day,
Mrs. Aquila-Salazar
found you and taught you
our language. Also she
gave you her manor,
of course.

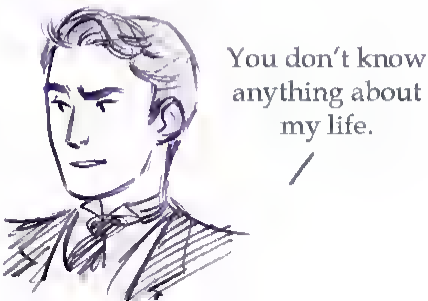


Your best friend is
a *coconut* and eventually
we'll find out that you're
actually a *royal*
princess.

Did I get that
right, miss?

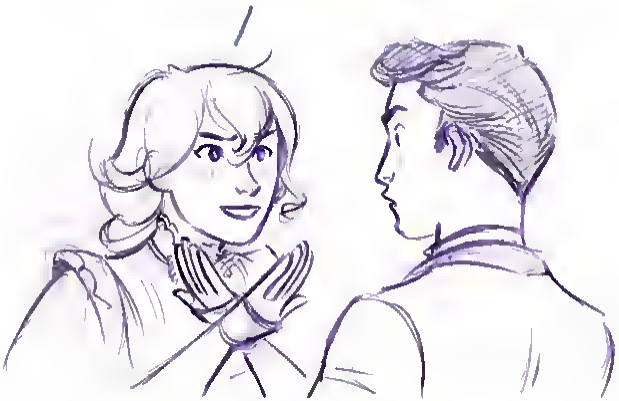
No, I'm not a prin... Wait, *are you mocking me*?!
Are YOU mocking me?
Maybe you thought that we're all hicks around here, but you've bumped into a city gentleman! Stuck in this godforsaken town, but still a city gentleman.
I'm sorry, but what you've told me sounds like a **cheap novel.**

How dare you!
It's YOUR life that sounds like a cheap novel!


You don't know anything about my life.

Oh,
really?

This is the story of a newly graduated *doctor* who's destined to a rural practice against his will. Sadly, his patients don't trust the new doctor. Men consider him too young and women consider him too *pretty*.



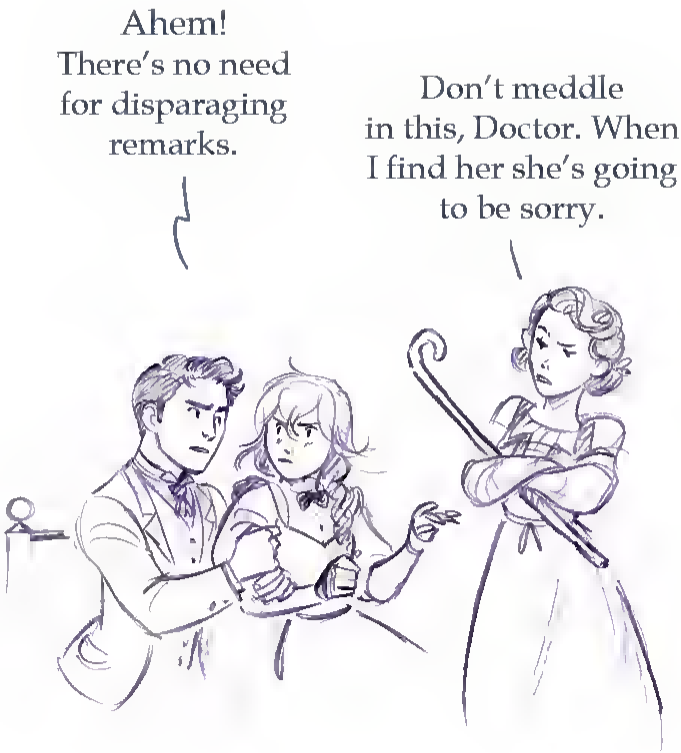
Instead of blending in, the *snobbish, pretentious* physician lives a bitter, loveless existence and dies alone.

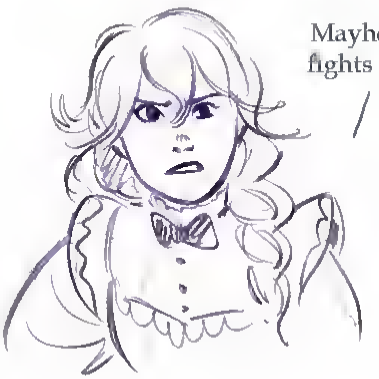
THE END.

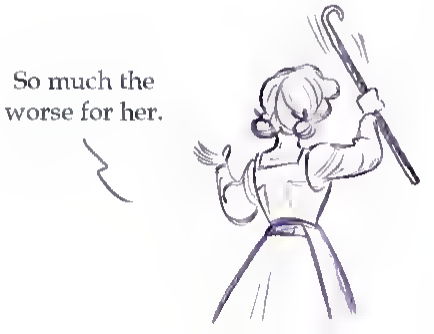
I don't see her anywhere, but I'm sure she's hidden close by, that... cockroach.

That reptile, that coward **rat**!

Hey!


Ahem!
There's no need for disparaging remarks.
Don't meddle in this, Doctor. When I find her she's going to be sorry.

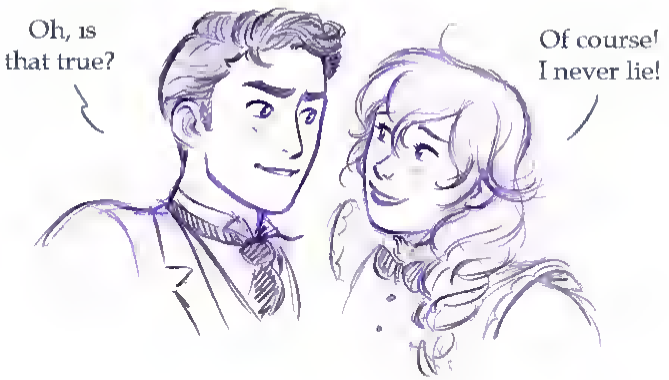

Mayhe she
fights back.

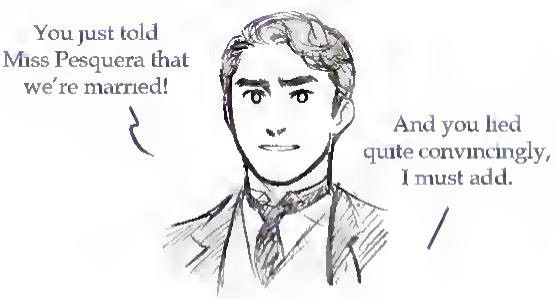

So much the
worse for her.

Calm down or she'll catch you!
I'm not afraid of her!

Then why are you gripping my arm so hard?

Haha!
Because I was
protecting you!


Oh, is that true?
Of course! I never lie!

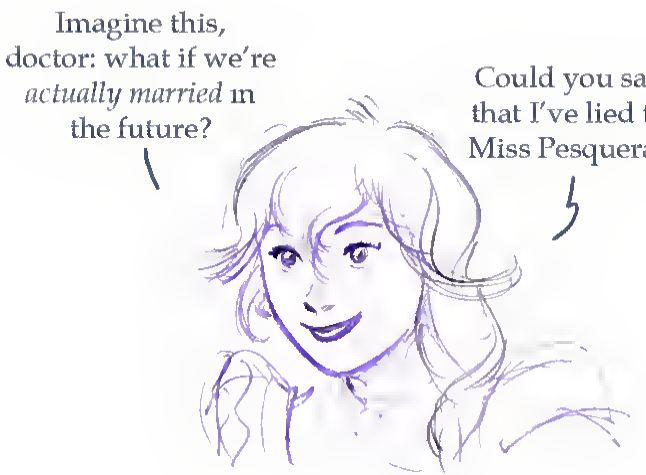

You just told Miss Pesquera that we're married!
And you lied quite convincingly, I must add.

Everything is *relative* because we don't know the future, Doctor Marino.

Once I told my mentor that I ate a carrot with my breakfast—she was obsessed with vitamins— when the truth was that I had hidden it in my pocket.

You could say that I lied, but I ended up eating it that night because I was bored, which means *it wasn't a lie anymore.*

It was definitely a lie!
No, because I ate it at the end.
That doesn't change it!


Imagine this, doctor: what if we're *actually married* in the future?
Could you say that I've lied to Miss Pesquera?

YES!
Are you sure?
Completely.

Then maybe I've been lying more than I thought.

Anyway it would be a great story to tell, right?
If you say so…

In many tales the main character falls for the first person they meet when they arrive to a new town.

Although now that I think about it, the first person I met here was that coachman, and he said some ugly things before kicking me out...

That's not that bad. The first person I met here was a hundred-and-two-year-old deaf lady.
I thought her house was a lodge and I got into her dining room.
She screamed, I screamed, she started throwing things at me

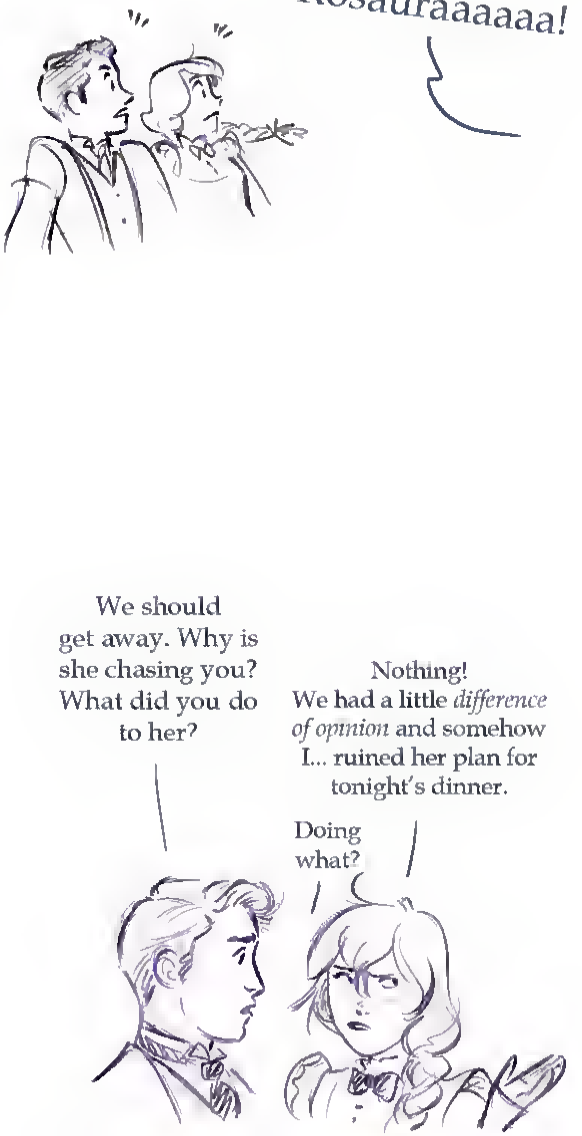
Wahaha!

It wasn't funny!
She hit me in the head
with an onion.
Wahahaha!
You're making
that up!
Hahaha!

I'm not.
I see you like to laugh at the misfortune of others, Miss Abbott.
The true misfortune is that I wasn't there to see it.

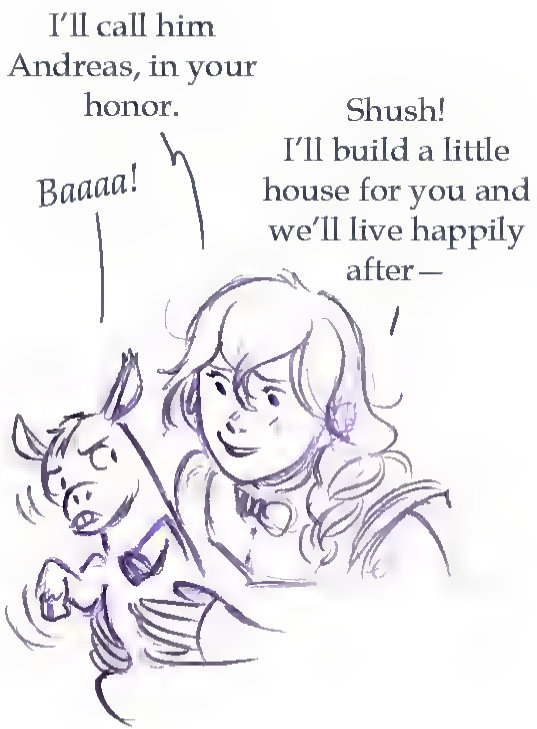
I can *warn you* the next time I have a ridiculous experience like that.
Yes! Do it, please!!!

That was
the main reason I
married you.
Pffft!


Rosauraaaaaa!
We should get away. Why is she chasing you? What did you do to her?
Nothing! We had a little *difference of opinion* and somehow I... ruined her plan for tonight's dinner.
Doing what?

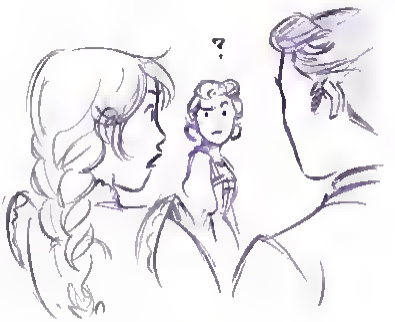
Taking **him** with me…
Y-you stole a goat?!
A little one! Look how cute he is.
He's adorable!

I don't care, that's stealing!
No, he wanted to come with me!


I'll call him Andreas, in your honor.
Baaaa!
Shush! I'll build a little house for you and we'll live happily after—

Baaaa!
No!
Come back,
ungrateful
animal!

The scary girl is going to hear it!



Don't worry, sir, the sun gods will protect us.

Let's make a blood sacrifice! Quickly, lend me your hand!
What are you doing?!

Tch, what a cowardly doctor!
Swallow these musk ashes and…

Rosaura!
Rosaura, where have you been?!
Where's your kidnapper?
Baaaa!

She
caught us!

Us?!
I didn't steal anything!
We're not scared of you, you can't beat both of us!

Don't involve me in this!
I'm the doctor of this town, you'll ruin my reputation!

I have nothing to do with this situation, I don't know this weird, savage girl!
Betrayal!
All the things we've been through together and now you betray me!

Eating a tiny animal like that is repulsive!
What?! Who says I was going to eat my sweet Rosaura?

You're going to pay for the fright you gave me!

You scared me half to death!

Grrrrrr!

Run!
But I didn't do anything wrong!

Yeah, good luck
debating with her crook.

Run, you dimwit!
Aaaaargh!

She didn't even want to eat the goat!
Argh, you are—

Yes, I'm **not** glad to have met you either.

Good bye!
I hope I'll never see you again, traitor!

I bet no **sane girl** will be involved with you in the future!
You made a **terrible** boyfriend!
Oh, really? I feel sorry for the **idiot** that marries you!

Never speak to me again!
Likewise!
Oh, this town is the worst!

What a horrible, horrible couple!
I promise that I'll avenge you one day, Rosaura.
Just wait and see.

And that's how we met.
Such a romantic story, right?

Can second-hand
embarrassment kill
a person?

@maripaz_villar

Miss Abbott and the doctor

STORY + ART

Maripaz Villar

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